

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 remain pending in the case. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 are rejected. Claims 1, 10, 11, 16 and 17 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On September 11, 2003, Matthew J. Blecher, Attorney for the Applicants, and Examiner Said participated in a telephonic interview to discuss the rejection of Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24. First, the claim limitation of a slot having an opening at one end, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 10, was discussed. Mr. Blecher explained that Izutani, the primary reference, could not be modified to include a slot having an opening at one end, as this modification would render Izutani inoperable. Next, the claim limitation of a computer system having a slot for receiving a hinge attached to a protective cover, as recited in independent Claim 18 was discussed. Mr. Blecher contended that none of the cited references showed or described a slot for receiving a hinge attached to a protective cover. No decision was made as to amending the claims to place the application in a condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,483,262 by Serial No.: 09/522,274

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Izutani, hereinafter referred to as the "Izutani" reference, in view of United States Patent 5,756,941 by Snell, hereinafter referred to as the "Snell" reference, and further in view of United States Patent 5,845,161 by Schrok, et al., hereinafter referred to as the "Schrok" reference. Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17-21 and 23 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock.

Independent Claims 1 and 10

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to Independent Claim 1 that recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

A computer system comprising:
a processor coupled to a bus;
a memory unit coupled to said bus;
a display screen coupled to said bus;
a digitizer coupled to said bus;
a case for supporting said processor, said memory unit, said display screen and said digitizer, said case having a slot located therein for receiving a stylus, wherein said slot comprises an opening at one end of said slot for receiving said stylus;
a non-mechanical detector for detecting said stylus in said slot;
a switch coupled to said non-mechanical detector for generating a signal to power up said processor, said display screen and said digitizer when said stylus is removed from said slot and wherein said switch is also for generating a signal to place said processor, said display screen and said digitizer into a power conservation mode when said stylus is inserted into said slot.

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Independent Claim 10 recites a similar limitations. Claims 3-9 that depend from independent Claim 1 and Claims 11 and 13-17 that depend from independent Claim 10 provide further limitations of the features of the present invention.

Izutani does not teach or suggest a computer system comprising a slot for receiving a stylus wherein the slot has an opening at one end of the slot for receiving a stylus. On the contrary, Izutani teaches a pen-input device wherein the pen holder for receiving a pen has an opening that runs along the entire length of the pen holder. In particular, the pen holder of Izutani pen holder includes an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion (see Izutani col. 3, lines 7-12; and Figures 2a-c, elements 2, 4 and 5). Applicants understand Izutani to teach a pen holder for holding an input pen between an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion.



As described in the present invention, a method and device are provided for detecting a stylus based on a non-mechanical detector. Specifically, the present invention as claimed recites the limitation of a computer system comprising a non-mechanical detector for detecting a stylus in a slot, wherein the slot has an opening at one end for receiving the stylus, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 10. Specifically, Figures 2A, 2B, 3, 7 and 8 illustrate a slot having an opening at one end for receiving the stylus.

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In contrast, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder 2 including an upper pen holding portion 4 and a lower pen holding portion 5 (Figures 2a-c). The input pen 1 is held in between upper pen holding portion 4 and lower pen holding portion 5. In particular, pen holder 2 does not have an opening at one end for receiving input pen 1. Rather, the pen holder of Izutani has an upper pen holding portion 4 at one end and a lower pen holding portion 5 at the other end.

Applicants respectfully submit that Izutani does not teach or suggest a slot having an opening at one end as claimed, because such a reading would render the claims of Izutani inoperable. In particular, the pen holder of Izutani would be inoperable with an opening at one end. For example, if either the upper pen holding portion or the lower pen holding portion were replaced with an opening, the input pen would not be held in place, as only one support would remain. Furthermore, Izutani specifically teaches that “[p]en holder 2 includes an upper pen holding portion 4 and a lower pen holding portion 5, and input pen 1 is held therabetween.” On the contrary, by requiring an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion, Izutani teaches away from such operation.

Moreover, the combination of Izutani and Snell fails to teach or suggest this claim limitation because Snell does not overcome the shortcomings of Izutani. Snell, alone or in combination with Izutani, does not show or suggest a

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computer system comprising a non-mechanical detector for detecting a stylus in a slot, wherein the slot has an opening at one end for receiving the stylus. As described above, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder comprising an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion.

Applicants understand Snell to teach retractable pen tether connected to a housing having a pen storage chamber with an opening at one end. In particular, Snell does not teach a non-mechanical detector for detecting a pen in the pen storage chamber.

As described above, modifying Izutani to have a pen holder with an opening at one end, as shown in Snell, would render Izutani inoperable. Therefore, in view of the claim limitation of a computer system comprising a non-mechanical detector for detecting a stylus in a slot, wherein the slot has an opening at one end for receiving the stylus not being shown or suggested in Snell, in combination with the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 10 overcomes the cited references and is therefore allowable over the combination of Izutani and Snell.

Furthermore, the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock fails to teach or suggest this claim limitation because Schrock does not overcome the shortcomings of the combination of Izutani and Snell. Schrock, alone or in

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combination with Izutani and Snell, does not show or suggest a computer system comprising a non-mechanical detector for detecting a stylus in a slot, wherein the slot has an opening at one end for receiving the stylus.

Applicants understand Schrock to teach a stylus based electronic annotation camera having a cavity for storing a stylus. However, as described above, Izutani is rendered inoperable by the cavity having an opening at one end of Schrock, and thus teaches away from such a combination. In view of the claim limitation of a slot comprising an opening at one end for receiving a stylus rendering Izutani inoperable, in combination with the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 10 overcomes the cited references and is therefore allowable over the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock.

Independent Claim 18

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 18 which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

A computer system comprising:
a processor coupled to a bus;
a memory unit coupled to said bus;
a display screen coupled to said bus;
a digitizer coupled to said bus;
a case for supporting said processor, said memory unit, said display screen and said digitizer, said case having a slot located therein for receiving a hinge attached to a protective cover;

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a non-mechanical detector for detecting positions of said hinge within said slot;
a switch coupled to said non-mechanical detector for generating a signal to automatically power up said processor,
said display screen and said digitizer when said hinge is rotated such that said cover is not laid over said display screen and wherein said switch is also for generating a signal to automatically place said processor, said display screen and said digitizer into a power conservation mode when said hinge is rotated such that said cover is laid over said display screen.

Claims 19-24 that depend from independent Claim 18 provide further limitations of the features of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that Izutani does not show, teach or suggest a computer system comprising a slot for receiving a hinge attached to a protective cover, a non-mechanical detector for detecting a position of a hinge, and a switch for controlling power based on a position of a hinge, as claimed. In particular, Izutani makes no reference at all to a hinge. Furthermore, neither Snell nor Schrock show, teach or suggest a computer system comprising a slot for receiving a hinge, a non-mechanical detector for detecting a position of a hinge, and a switch for controlling power based on a position of a hinge.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock does not show or suggest hinge devices, particularly hinge devices in a protective cover for rotating to power up and place in a conservation mode a processor, a display screen, and a digitizer as recited in

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independent Claim 18. As mentioned above, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder comprising an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion, Snell teaches a retractable pen tether connected to a housing having a pen storage chamber, and Schrock teaches a stylus based electronic annotation camera. Nowhere does the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock teach or suggest a hinge and a protective cover, as recited in Claim 18. In view of the claim limitation a hinge attached to a protective cover not being shown or suggested in Izutani, Snell, or Schrock, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 18 overcomes the cited references and is therefore allowable over the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23

Applicants respectfully assert that nowhere does the combination of Izutani and Snell teach, disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 10 and 18, and that these claims are thus in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the combination of Izutani and Snell also does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23. Claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 are dependent on allowable base Claim 1, Claims 14, 15 and 17 are dependent on allowable base Claim 10, and Claims 19-21 and 23 are dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23 overcome

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the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims.

Claims 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 22

Claims 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Izutani and Snell in view of Schrock, further in view of United States Patent 6,100,538 by Ogawa et al. Claims 3 and 6 are dependent on allowable base Claim 1, Claims 11, 13 and 16 are dependent on allowable base Claim 10, and Claim 22 is dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 22 overcome the cited art and are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 8 and 24

Claims 8 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Izutani and Snell in view of Schrock, further in view of United States Patent 5,049,862 by Dao et al. Claim 8 is dependent on allowable base Claim 1 and Claim 24 is dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8 and 24 overcome the cited art and are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the amendments and arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO L.L.P.

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Matthew J. Blecher
Registration No. 46,558

Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 938-9060

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